

WWDHS NEWSLETTER No. 440 Dec. 19-Dec. 20 ISSN 2207-1016

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday 20 January 2020, 2. p.m.
Venue: Historic Council Chambers
(HCC), Museum of the Riverina.

Monday 17 February 2020: HCC

Committee Meeting: 6.30 pm
General Meeting: 7.30 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Sister Barbara
Webber

FIRST GENERAL MEETING NEXT YEAR

17 February 2020: Sister Barbara Webber

7.30 p.m. The speaker will be Sister Barbara Webber who entered Mt Erin convent after leaving school. She taught at Ganmain, Sydney, Urana and Henschke (then Maria Goretti) schools and Mt Erin. 1992-2000. She has been a Pastoral Care Co-ordinator at Mount Erin and a manager of Micah House for about four years. She has also been involved in Sunflower House, Erin Earth and the Kairos Outside program.

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PARTY: ROMANO'S HISTORIC HOTEL, AMBASSADOR ROOM, ON SATURDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 6.30 p.m. Geoff Burch will be give a talk on the history of Romano's. Please let him know if you are able to come. Never too late.

EXCURSION TO THE BROOM FACTORY: at 38 Adelong Road, Tumut at a date to be decided in February or March next year.

WWDHS Patron: Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister and the Federal Member for Riverina,

WAGGA WAGGA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. PO BOX 90, WAGGA WAGGA. 2650.

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Committee meetings: 3rd Monday of the month
General meetings: 3rd Monday of the month

Annual Subscriptions: Single: \$20, Couple: \$30.
Corporate: \$50. Due by 1st July each year.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



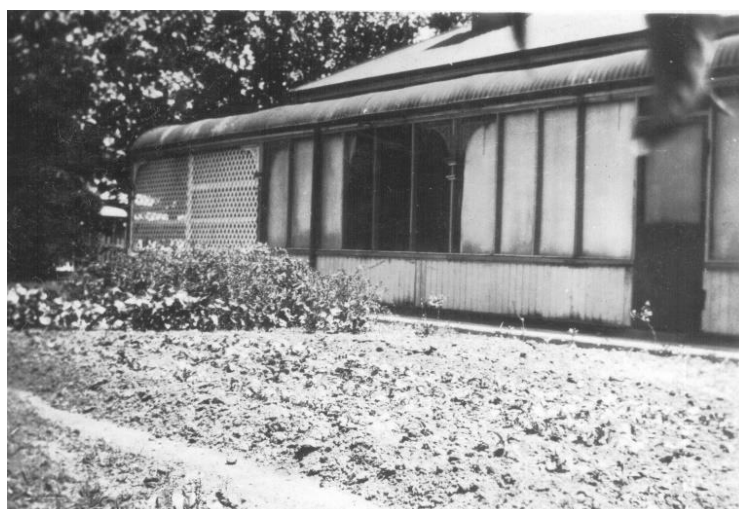
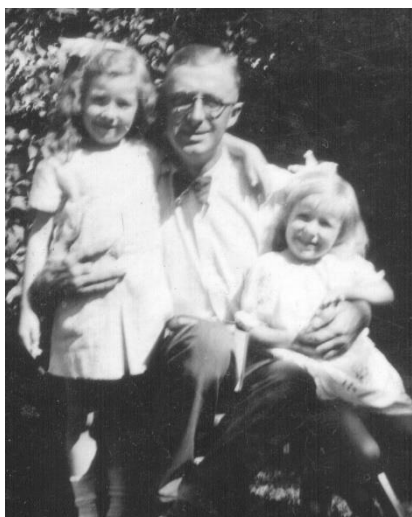
**FROM WAGGA WAGGA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(AND HUTHWAITE SANTAS)**

VALE: EVELYN MAUD PATTERSON (1931-2019)

Evelyn Maud Patterson was born on 25 June 1931. Her father, Harry Gooch was born in Norfolk, England, and her mother, Mary Somerville Shearer, was born in Glasgow, Scotland.

Harry and Mary had met in Scotland during the First World War. Harry had landed at Gallipoli (Suvla Bay) with the British Army. After he was wounded he was transported to Egypt and then to a hospital in Scotland where Mary, 'a socialite', was a Red Cross nurse. Because he had met a lot of Australians at Gallipoli, Harry visited Australia on two occasions after the War. While in Australia he acquired a soldier settlement block at Hillston, New South Wales. He then returned to Scotland to propose to Mary. Mary's father had died, so the rest of the family decided to sell up in Glasgow and migrate to Australia. Unfortunately, her grandmother died just before they left so only her brother and her sister-in-law accompanied them.

The couple were married at Hillston. Their first child, Margaret, was born in Griffith (as there was no hospital at Hillston at that time). Evelyn, their second child, was born in the hospital at Hillston (which by then had been built).



Harry Gooch and his daughters, Margaret and Evelyn and their home at Hillston

At Hillston, Harry ploughed by horse-drawn implements. Unfortunately, drought and then depression made farming too difficult, so they sold up and moved to Melbourne where Harry joined a poultry company, the Highland Brothers. When Highland Brothers decided to open a branch in Wagga Wagga, Harry was sent to manage the branch and the whole family moved to Wagga Wagga.

Before long, Highland Brothers decided to close the branch because of problems associated with transferring the frozen poultry at Albury from the NSW Railway line to the Victorian line which had a different gauge. So, Harry decided to buy the business and acquired an agent in Sydney, Glazebrooks, who were poultry exporters. The freezing works were initially at Wallace and Ryan's near the Wagga Railway Station. Later Harry moved to a little office and area at the back of Edmondson's and then he acquired a building in Kincaid Street from Douglas Body Company. The building was equipped with freezers and there were slaughtering yards and chook pens.

The family initially lived at 49 Best Street and then later at 106 Urana Street. Evelyn attended the Wagga Wagga Grammar School in Best Street, Wagga Wagga High School and then the Commercial College.

106 Urana Street, Wagga Wagga



The tennis court at 106 Urana Street. From left to right, Marge and Enid Johnson, Betty McNickle, Margaret Gooch and Evelyn Gooch



Gooch and Co, Kincaid Street, Wagga Wagga



Evelyn's marriage to Bob Patterson at St John's Church with bridesmaid, Margaret Gooch and best man, Col Patterson.

Evelyn married Bob Patterson at St John's Church in Wagga Wagga. The couple lived in Coolamon and had two children, Craig and Fiona. After Bob drowned while fishing when the children were quite young, Evelyn worked really hard in various occupations to support them. Her favourite occupation was at 2WG where she was an announcer and script writer (after the family moved to Wagga Wagga). She died on 13 October 2019.

Evelyn had been passionate about many things including her family, her friends, her garden, food, art, tennis and football (and her beloved Carlton). And she loved history, particularly the history of Wagga Wagga. On moving to Wagga, she joined our historical society. She enjoyed the talks at our meetings. She gave two interesting talks herself and found some very interesting people to talk on other occasions. Above all, she just loved our excursions.



Left: With Betty Allen at Junee Museum in 2006. Right: With Peter Morris at Beechworth.

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Walla Walla and Jindera Excursion, 2008



With Yvonne McMullen at Henty in 2012

CAMERON ROBERTSON

By Sherry Morris

Cameron Robertson was a quiet achiever. After his arrival in Wagga Wagga in the late 1920s, he not only established a successful business as a Master Baker, he also played an important role in many organisations including the Bread Manufacturers' Association, the Wagga Wagga and District Chamber of Commerce and the Community Advancement Fund. He was a particularly hard worker for the Miss Wagga Wagga competition for many years. Robertson Oval was named in his honour.

Cameron McLean Robertson was the son of Jessie and Henry Robertson of Shepparton and brother of Edith, Jean, Ivy and Ronald. His parents migrated to Australia from Glasgow, Scotland, and settled in Shepparton, Victoria, where Cam was born on 10 February 1898. He married Elsie Lane in Shepparton about 1926.¹

A Master Baker by trade, Cam Robertson (pictured right) moved from Shepparton to Wagga Wagga in the late 1920s and joined his father-in-law in running the Kelso Bakery, located at 160 Baylis Street, opposite the Plaza Theatre.² Like many bakers in the 1930s, Lane and Robertson were fined under the Day Bakery Act for beginning to bake earlier than the stipulated time – £1 in 1933 (plus £3 costs) and £10 plus costs in 1936 (a larger fine because it was the second offence).³ Later Robertson bought out his father-in-law and the business was operated on behalf of Robertson himself and his wife, Elsie.



The business expanded rapidly and other bakeries were acquired including one in Gurwood Street and another in Turvey Park. It supplied general stores not only in Wagga Wagga but also outlying centres including The Rock.

During the Second World War it won the contract to supply bread to the defence forces in the Wagga Wagga area. Even during the 1950 flood in Wagga Wagga, although the waters reached as far as Kelso Bakery, Robertson organised the removal of plant to higher ground and bread production continued regardless.

The bakery became, according to one former patron, Evelyn Patterson, very popular and renowned for the quality of its bread and cakes (particularly its rainbow cakes) while another patron Cathryn Harmer who worked at the nearby Pauls store thought that its 'spyders' (lemonade and ice cream) were the best in town.⁴

The horse-drawn Kelso Bakery carts were well known in Wagga Wagga. Cam himself used a horse named 'Blue' on his first run and 'Blue' still made the occasional delivery in 1962. By this time the bakery employed four horses and two carts. They had changed little in that time except the old steel-rimmed wheels had been replaced by pressurised tyres in the 1940s. One driver, Roy Edmondson, told *The Daily Advertiser* that a horse and cart was better than a truck as horses knew the route forwards and backwards and, he claimed, 'you can whistle up a horse but you can't whistle up a van'. The horse-drawn carts were used by the Bakery until August 1964 when, for economic reasons, they were replaced by motorised transport not long after the Kelso Bakery amalgamated with the Riverina Bakery. It was a nostalgic occasion, signalling

the end of an era. Two of the horses had between them clocked up forty years of service with the Kelso Bakery.⁵ Robertson remained involved in the running of the bakery until 1972, the year of his death.

Although Cam Robertson became a member of the Bread Manufacturers Association in 1935, he did not become involved until the boom period in the immediate post-war years when wheat – and wool – were in great demand at home and overseas. After the country was split into areas, Robertson was elected as the Southern Sector representative, attending his first executive meeting on 6 November 1946.⁶ In the late 1940s, country representatives pressed for greater country representation, for bread price increases, for a bread panel and for a revision of starting times of the meetings. For many years Cam Robertson was the President of the Riverina District Master Bakers' Association and became an executive member in 1950.⁷



Above: Kelso Bakery Carts in the 1960s



*Above: Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga, in the 1930s, pictured on a postcard.
The Kelso Bakery was on the right side of the street opposite the Plaza Theatre*

Robertson chaired the meeting of the Riverina District Bread Manufacturers Association in November 1947 when a resolution was carried for the establishment of the Wagga Wheat Research Institute. This was first mooted in 1945 and a project favoured by the Member for Wagga Wagga and Minister for Agriculture, Eddie Graham. Contracts for its construction were signed in 1949. Robertson was later appointed as one of the Association's representatives on the Special Advisory Committee for the project. The Foundation Stone of the Wheat Research Institute at Wagga Wagga was laid on 26 May 1950. It was officially opened as the Wagga Agricultural Research Institute by Eddie Graham on 20 October 1954.⁸

Cam Robertson was also heavily involved in the organisation of the annual Bread, Flour and Wheat Convention in Wagga Wagga and always attracted distinguished and interesting speakers including the Trade Commissioner for Canada, Forsyth Smith, for the eighth convention in 1954. In that year Eddie Graham, who had attended all eight conventions, paid a tribute to Cam Robertson 'for the splendid work he had done year after year, in bringing all sections of the Industry together, which must be in the interest of all concerned'.

Other speakers at the annual Bread, Flour and Wheat Conventions in Wagga included the Indian High Commissioners, Mr Duleepsinhji (in 1952) and His Excellency Shri P. A. Menon (in 1960), the High Commissioner for Canada, W. Irwin, Sir Ian Clunies Ross, Dr T. H. Strong, Director of the Bureau of Agriculture and Economics in Canberra, T. G. Creyke, Agricultural Food Adviser to the British Government and Wal Fife, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). After the 14th Convention in 1961, Cam announced that that year's gathering would be the last in its current form. Small get-togethers were held thereafter.⁹

For twenty-four years Cam Robertson was actively associated with Wagga Wagga and District Chamber of Commerce. He attended his first meeting at the Masonic Hall on 29 July 1947 and quickly became a useful member. On 6 October that year he was made an honorary member of the financial committee. One year later, on 11 October 1948, he was given a vote of thanks for making the services of his typist available to the Chamber of Commerce during the period it had no typist. The motion was carried by acclamation. On 8 November 1948, he was Acting Chairman in the absence of the President and Vice-President. Then on 16 December 1948, he and J. H. Nathan, M. Rava and F. B. Raye were appointed trustees. He was later elected as President for several terms including 1950-1952 and 1965-1966.¹⁰

During these years he was admired for his drive and initiative and was he was one of the stalwarts of the chamber responsible for its rapid growth. In these years this influential group of men helped establish and/or maintain many services for the community. One of its major achievements was the establishment of the Wagga Wagga Tourist Bureau in 1947. Initially the Bureau was located in the Chamber's Offices next to the former Australian Hotel in Fitzmaurice Street but it was moved to 186A Baylis Street in the mid-1950s. It provided the city with a complete travel service – up-to-date travel information, travel reservations in Australia and throughout the world and even assistance with passports, visas, taxation clearances, health certificates and currency problems. It also promoted tourism by encouraging additional visitors to the city.¹¹ Another major achievement was the establishment of the Wagga Co-operative Building Society in 1949. In order to achieve this, the Chamber of Commerce had to become incorporated and its Board of Directors became shareholders in the Building Society. Cam Robertson was a member of the first Board of Directors and one of eight members to sign the original constitution.

In 1948 the Chamber provided small sums of money for many worthy causes including the Coleman Street and Trail Street kindergartens and to the scouts to complete the purchase of a vacant block next to the scout hall in Forsyth Street. It helped the Wagga Wagga Beach Life Saving Club grade and terrace the bank of the river to form a grandstand effect and to purchase pontoons to enclose an area 50 metres by 20 metres to form enclosed baths. It loaned £400 (later a grant) to the Wagga Wagga Tennis Club to construct five additional courts and to electrically light four of the existing courts. In 1949 it guaranteed the Wagga Athletic Club £500 against loss in conducting the Wagga Gift Carnival on 1 January 1949; and in 1951 it gave an interest-free loan of £400 to the Wagga Motor Cycle Club (Jack Skeers, president) to build a motor speedway track on the North Wagga Recreation Reserve. On several occasions it organised transport on Fearnies' buses for children from the Uranquinty Migrant Centre to the Capitol Theatre in Wagga Wagga. It also assisted the Eisteddfod Society and the Wagga Wagga Men's Hockey Association.¹²

Whilst Cam Robertson was president in the 1960s, the Nightwatchman Service was introduced to protect local businesses from theft and vandalism. From October 1965 five nightwatchmen with walkie talkies patrolled the businesses and streets. They included four special constables armed with pistols with the authority to make arrests.¹³

When parking metres were being discussed in Wagga Wagga, Cam Robertson was part of a four-member team from the Chamber of Commerce (with Ron Castle, secretary, Tom Berrigan and W. Anstice) who travelled to several centres in Victoria including Wangaratta and Shepparton to examine their parking metres and business conditions.¹⁴

During his terms as President of the Wagga Wagga and District Chamber of Commerce, Cam Robertson met many interesting people. On 13 June 1952, for example, he and his wife Elsie Robertson were members of the official party who welcomed the Governor General Sir William McKell, Lady McKell and Miss McKell on their arrival at Wagga Wagga. At the Civic Reception he was one of the speakers who welcomed the trio to Wagga Wagga along with the Mayor W. F. Dunn, the Member for Wagga Wagga and Minister of Agriculture, Eddie Graham and Member for Farrar, David Fairbairn. As a member of the Heather Club, he also thanked the Governor General for opening the Scottish Ball and receiving the debutants.¹⁵

Cam Robertson was associated with the Community Advancement Fund (CAF) from its foundation by the Chamber of Commerce in 1946. The CAF had its own committee to raise funds to advance sporting, cultural, educational, social and other worthy activities in Wagga Wagga and District. In particular, it aimed:

- to provide financial assistance or guarantees to approved sports clubs;
- to arrange visits from the highest class of performers in the various sports in order to raise the standards of local competition;
- to provide prize money and trophies for open sports competitions;
- to assist Eisteddfods, choirs, bands and cultural societies; and
- to assist educational, social and recreational activities of the city.



Above: Wagga Wagga Chamber of Commerce 1951-1952. Front, left to right: B. F. Greenway, J. Hamill (secretary), A. W. Loch (vice-president), C. M. Robertson (president), K. Humphrys, M. Colland (assistant secretary), R. Koth. Back, left to right: A. Karofilis, J. Bosworth, L. Barrand, F. B. Raye, J. A. Johnson, J. G. Wallace, L. H. Lawrence, C. J. Spokes. Absent: K. C. McKay (honorary treasurer), P. R. Martens and J. F. Moore. Cam Robertson is sitting of a chair he had donated to the Chamber of Commerce for the Miss Wagga Wagga crowning. It was used in Miss Wagga Wagga ceremonies for many years. Source: Museum of the Riverina.

Cam Robertson was a member of the first committee and was elected vice-chairman while J. L. Packham was elected as chairman. The committee also included L. H. Shaw, J. H. Nathan, M. Rava, J. L. Tennison, C. Toy, J. N. Lowe, E. L. O'Farrell and S. Psaltis. Robertson was elected as chairman on 22 April 1948 and at the following meeting (on 10 May 1948) it was decided to raise funds by conducting a Miss Wagga Wagga Competition and an Ugly Man Competition.¹⁶ The Miss Wagga Wagga Quest was conducted annually thereafter.

For many years Cam Robertson was the Quest's more prolific worker. He also donated the chair to the Chamber of Commerce for the crowning of Miss Wagga Wagga. It was purchased through fellow committeeman, J. H. Nathan, the Manager of Maples. It was used in the Miss Wagga Wagga competitions for many years. It was also used by Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Wagga Wagga on 13 February 1954.

In 1948, Miss Wagga Wagga entrants were nominated by various sections of the community – Miss Café, Miss Sport, Miss Public Service, Miss Commerce South, Miss Commerce North etc. The section winners were selected by penny votes from the public, the candidate gaining the most pennies or votes being the winner of her section. After several months of fundraising an elimination carnival for the contest was held on 30 September 1948 at the New Moon Gardens. Hundreds attended. Stalls, competitions, merry-go-rounds, monkeys riding in midget racing cars, the Wagga Citizens Band, a concert, a Quiz Session, an exhibition of dancing from

the Wallace School of Dancing and items from a visiting Canadian yodeller provided the entertainment. All candidates were presented to the public and the winners of the sections announced and presented with sashes.

Miss Wagga Wagga was then crowned at the first New Year's Eve Revels which were held at New Moon Gardens opposite 2WG in 1948. Miss Thena Karofilis was the first Miss Wagga Wagga and crowned 'Queen of the Flowers' by Mayor Alderman Les Barrand. She won a trip to Sydney valued at \$200. The first Ugly Man was John Johnson who was crowned 'King of the Mardi Gras' by E. H. Graham, Minister for Agriculture. A total of £5427/9/5 was raised.

In the following year (1949-1950), rather than the candidates raising funds in support of their candidature, a committee was appointed to select the girl it felt would best represent the city on the basis of physique and health, beauty and photogenic possibilities, deportment and personality, education, voice culture, artistic and sporting qualities and knowledge of Wagga Wagga and district. Cam Robertson, President of the CAF, chaired this committee and J. Hamill, the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, was its Secretary.



Above: Miss Wagga Wagga contest 1949-1950. Back: unknown, 'Johnno' Johnson. Second back, left to right: Frances Henderson, Joy Peacock, Dorothy Vonarx, Merle Fraser (page), Moira Pattison, Phoebe Andrews, Thena Karofilis (seated) Norma Bickley, Helen Lloyd (flower maiden), Bernice Foster, Norma Clark-Kennedy, Doreen Walden, Betty Collins. Front row (flowergirls), left to right: Dulcie Holland, June McLeod, Annette Clear, Jan Paull, Sandra Cross, Jean Sturgess, Edna Middenway, and Barbara Dunlop.



Right: Badge for Manufacturers' entrant, J. A. Johnson, the ultimate winner

In the 1950-1951 Quest it was decided that the winner would be the candidate who raised the most money. This was Marjorie Johnson (Miss Industry) whose fundraising included the profit from the sale of a fibro-cement cottage with a tiled roof, which had been constructed in Sullivan Avenue by Hardy and Co and other Master Builders in just six weeks. The quest raised a total of £5700. Over £5100 of this total was allocated to the Wagga Wagga City Council towards the Town Hall Fund (and later diverted to the Civic Theatre). Cam Robertson and his committee put in hours of work to achieve this result.¹⁷

When Cam Robertson retired as Chairman of the CAF on 22 February 1951 the members of the Committee spoke in appreciation of the capable manner in which he carried out his duties during his three years as Chairman and the excellent results in that period as a result of his hard work and keen interest he always took in Committee affairs.¹⁸



Above: House in Sullivan Avenue built by Hardy and Co and other Master Builders for Miss Industry candidate in the Miss Wagga Quest, Marjorie Johnson, 1951. Front, left to right: Unknown, Frank Dowsett, Roy Koth, Chris Terry, Roy Knight, Mrs Johnson, Marjorie Johnson, Cam Robertson, Fred Willis, Johnno Johnson. Back, left to right: Arthur Gillard, Alf Towner, Dick Lancaster, Unknown, Fred White. Left: Elsie Robertson, Cam's wife, acted as chaperone for Miss Waggas. She is accompanying Miss Wagga Wagga Margaret Rutzou in 1953. The Miss Wagga Waggas' chaperoned trips included a visit to Manly, a harbour cruise and meeting the Premier of NSW and the Lord Mayor of Sydney.

Robertson continued to work tirelessly for the Miss Wagga Wagga Quest and for the Annual Mardi Gras held between Christmas and New Year's Day. His wife, Elsie, was also involved and often acted as chaperone for Miss Waggas on their trips to Sydney.

He was again elected chairman of the CAF Committee on 21 March 1960. As the Chairman of the CAF, in 1962, he was invited to the unveiling of the commemorative plaque to mark the start of the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre project by the Minister for Local Government and Highways, P. D. Hills. About 300 attended the ceremony at the partly-built theatre. Pat Hills was welcomed by the Mayor Ivan J. Jack and the Member for Wagga Wagga, Wal Fife. The other speakers included William L. (Bill) Hurd, the President of the Wagga Wagga School of Arts (which contributed £56,000 of the total cost of £93,000) and Cam Robertson himself who spoke about the CAF's Committee donation of over £5100 of the proceeds of the 1950-1951 Miss Wagga Wagga Quest to the Wagga Wagga City Council Town Hall Fund which was later diverted to the Civic Theatre project.¹⁹

While Cam Robertson was the Chairman, the CAF contributed 'a straight out cash grant of £700 and an interest-free loan of £650 for a period up to two years' (a total of £1350) to the Wagga Wagga City Council towards the cost of the construction of an extensive spectator embankment on the western, northern and north-eastern sides of the No 1 Football/Cricket Oval at Bolton Park and of the roofing of the grandstand and other improvements.²⁰ The work was completed by 1963.

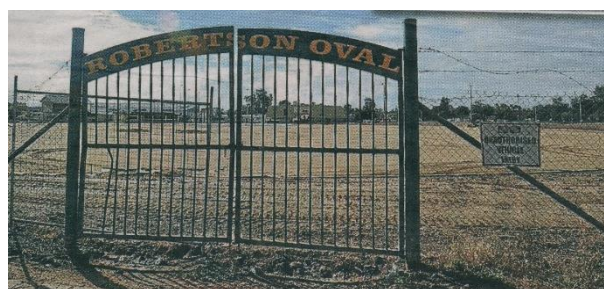


Above: Cam Robertson's Speech at the unveiling of the Commemorative Plaque to mark the start of the Wagga Civic Theatre Project by the Minister for Local Government and Highways, Pat D. Hills, April 1962.

In May 1963 Cam Robertson was informed that Wagga Wagga City Council had unanimously passed a resolution to officially name No. 1 Oval at Bolton Park (one of the main sports fields in Wagga Wagga) as 'Robertson Oval'. According to the letter from Town Clerk W. R. Ellis:

This decision was made to suitably recognise the splendid voluntary service which you have rendered to this community over many years, particularly in your capacity as President and Committeeman of the Community Advancement Fund. The Council fully realises the part which you have played in assisting the Community Advancement Fund with arrangements for the annual Mardi Gras Festival, Miss Wagga Competition, the contribution to the City Hall Building Fund of over £5000, and the improvement effected at Bolton Park by the erection of the spectators' embankment, roofing of the Grandstand etc.²¹

At the same time the concrete grandstand on the western side of Robertson Oval was named the John Hamill Stand after Jack Hamill, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Community and Advancement Fund from about 1944 until October 1964. The next Mardi Gras conducted each year by the Community Advancement Fund was held at the Robertson Oval.²²



Left: Robertson Oval, 2012.

Robertson officially retired as President of the CAF on 11 March 1963. The Vice-President M. Rava thanked him for his hard work and leadership and stated that the Chamber and the CAF owed a great debt of gratitude to him as he 'always seemed to be the backbone of the CAF.'²³

At the Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner in 1967 Cam was again honoured, this time with a presentation from the President, R. A. Johnson, in recognition of more than twenty years association with the Chamber of Commerce and his association with the Community Advancement Fund since its inception.

Cam Robertson had many other diverse interests. He valued his Scottish background and helped preserve the Scottish tradition, being a member of the Heather Club (and served at least one term as President) and was involved in organising the Scottish balls. He actively supported the Home of Compassion and was a member of the Wagga Lions Club. During the Second World War, Cam Robertson was a member of the Police Reserve. In return for his services, in August 1948, he was presented with a small memento in the form of a 'Police Friend' badge which had been specially struck for the occasion.²⁴ He was also interested in Australian Rules Football and served as a President of Wagga Tigers Australian Rules Football Club. He must have been thrilled when the Bolton Park No 1 Oval was named after him although it was because of his involvement in the CAF.

On 17 February 1972, Cam was injured in a serious car accident. He had begun to recover but died suddenly at the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital on 24 April 1972 at the age of 74. The

funeral service was held at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and he was buried Wagga Lawn Cemetery.

He had been an outstanding citizen of Wagga Wagga. He had established a very successful business and had only recently retired. He had played an active role in Bread Industry organisations in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s and had organised the annual Bread, Flour and Wheat Conventions in Wagga Wagga from about 1946 to 1961. He had been actively associated with the Chamber of Commerce for twenty-four years and a tireless worker for the Community Advancement Fund and its Miss Wagga Wagga Quest.

As the Reverend MacKenzie Baird pointed out at his funeral, he was very generous and 'although not a regular churchgoer he was everything the word Christian stands for'. He was survived by his wife Elsie, daughters Beverley (Mrs B. Garrard), Marjorie (Mrs J. Braid) and son, Ian and an adopted nephew, Donald. He was also a grandfather of seven.²⁵

Despite his contribution to Wagga Wagga's business and community life, only the Robertson Oval has been named after this generous quiet achiever.

¹ Beverley Garrard, daughter of Cam Robertson, Canberra, 16 June 2012.

² Lane and Robertson were in business in Wagga Wagga by 1930 when the firm donated a prize for a competition involving the Militia Forces in Wagga Wagga. See *Argus* (Melbourne), 10 May 1930.

³ *Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)*, 22 August 1933, 8 July 1936.

⁴ Evelyn Patterson, 8 May 2012; Cathryn Harmer, 7 June 2012.

⁵ *The Daily Advertiser (DA)*, 5 January 1962, 6 August 1964.

⁶ 'Cam Robertson and the Bread Industry', notes supplied by Beverley Garrard.

⁷ 'Cam Robertson and the Bread Industry'.

⁸ A. T. Pugsley, 'History of the Wagga Wagga Agricultural Research Institute', *Journal of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society: Foundations*, Number 6, 1984.

⁹ 'Cam Robertson and the Bread Industry'.

¹⁰ Wagga Wagga and District Chamber of Commerce, minute books, Charles Sturt University Regional Archives (CSURA), RW232.

¹¹ City of Wagga Wagga, Information Booklets, 1950-1966.

¹² Wagga Wagga and District Chamber of Commerce, minutes, CSURA, RW232; 'Wagga Chamber of Commerce and Industry: 50th Anniversary', *DA*, 20 March 1986.

¹³ *DA*, October 1965.

¹⁴ *DA*, 20 August 1964, 10, 28 October 1964, 29 January 1965, 19 February 1965.

¹⁵ *DA*, 14 June 1952; *SMH*, 13 June 1952; Frank H. Burns, Town Clerk, Wagga Wagga City Council, to C. M. Robertson, President, Wagga Wagga and District Chamber of Commerce, 30 May 1952, re visit of the Governor General Sir William McKell and Lady McKell.

¹⁶ Community Advancement Fund, minutes 1948, and Miss Wagga Wagga Quest material, Wagga Wagga and District Chamber of Commerce, CSURA, RW232; and Miss Wagga Wagga Quest Material including correspondence, scrap books, 1966-1998, CSURA, RW1140.

¹⁷ Ronda Hull, *A History of the Miss Wagga Wagga Quest, 1948-1988*, Wagga Wagga, 1988.

¹⁸ Community Advancement Fund, Minutes, 22 February 1951, CSURA.

¹⁹ *DA*, 1 June 1962.

²⁰ Community Advancement Fund, Minutes, 22 February 1960, Chamber of Commerce Minutes, 22 February 1960, CSURA.

²¹ W. R. Ellis, Town Clerk, Wagga Wagga City Council, letter to C. M. Robertson, 17 May 1963, Photostat provided by Beverley Garrard.

²² *DA*, 26 December 1963.

²³ Community Advancement Fund, Minutes, 21 March 1960 to 11 March 1962, 21 January 1963, CSURA.

²⁴ A. Sticpewich, Secretary, Police Department, Commissioner's Office, to C. M. Robertson, 31 August 1948. Photostat copy provided by Beverley Garrard.

²⁵ *DA*, 25, 27 April 1972.